

What is claimed is:

1. A base station used for a radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the base station comprising:

a code switch informing unit for informing that a first code, having been used by one of the plurality of mobile stations, is to be switched to a second code;

a timing information sending unit for transmitting timing information regarding timing of switching the first code to the second code to the one of the plurality of mobile stations; and

a switching unit for switching the first code to the second code based on the timing information transmitted to the one of the plurality of mobile stations.

2. A radio communication method of a base station used for a radio communication system employing CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) for radio access and providing multi-rate transmission, the radio communication method comprising:

informing that a first code, having been used by one of the plurality of mobile stations, is to be switched to a second code;

transmitting timing information regarding timing of switching the first code to the second code to the one of the plurality of mobile stations; and

switching the first code to the second code based on the timing information transmitted to the one of the plurality of mobile stations.